

Mammoth Working Class Rally Before Parliament

Call for United Struggle by NCC

November 23, 1981—It was red, red all the way from the Red Fort to the Boat Club maidan, near the Parliament. Lakhs and Lakhs of working people—industrial and agricultural workers, office employees and of other walks of life were streaming to the Capital, in response to the call of March to Parliament, fluttering the Red Flag, the Flag of struggle, the Flag of emancipation. The call was given by the united platform—National Campaign Committee, forged at the Bombay Convention, a platform, the working people have been yearning for long, to give a powerful rebuff to the unending series of attacks that the governments at the Centre and in the States, subservient to moribund capitalist order have been bringing down on them, just to give a lease of life to this order. In their strident slogans they showed their indignant opposition to ESMA, NSA and all other autocratic lawless laws, they demanded the living of a human being that is denied to them by the rulers. The unity displayed in action, a good beginning, no doubt, will have to be guarded, consolidated and further extended in the successful implementation of the call of one day's All India Industrial Strike on January 19, 1982. The struggle is on, let us carry it forward.

The National Campaign Committee gave the call to the working class to demonstrate their unity of will and determination against the ESMA, the latest in the series of the monstrous attacks that the Indira Government at the Centre, since its coming to power, has been thrusting on the people in its bid, as the most trusted agent of crisis ridden bourgeoisie, to give a lease of life to this moribund capitalist order. The call was to stage a mighty assemblage before Parliament, to tell the rulers that the working people will not bear with the bankrupt bourgeois policy of passing the entire burden of crisis on to their shoulders in the forms of mounting tax burden, high rate of inflation, erosion in real wages and all other evils that sprout up as concomitant evils in the

social life. Before this programme, state level and regional conventions were held almost in every state.

Joining in this programme of March to Parliament working people, lakhs upon lakhs from different parts of this vast country, speaking different language, belonging to different race, religious faith and caste proved that the only bond, the real bond of unity among them is this class reality—their fight as the oppressed working class against the class oppression, tyranny and denial of human right by the ruling capitalist class. This is the real fight to bring change in their life. In unison, they raised the slogans on the

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Policy Declaration Assam State Committee, SUC

Assam State Committee of our Party, SUCI at its meeting held on 1st December, '81 at Gauhati, reviewed the question of formation of a non-Congress (I) ministry in Assam by the Ten-party Combination. In course

of this review it has reiterated that in accordance with our consistent effort of forming a united front, our party will endeavour to preserve the Ten-party Combination, protect its unity as an instrument of democratic mass movement on the basis of a common minimum programme and a code of conduct.

The meeting also took note of the fact that our party has been all along endeavouring to develop democratic mass movement in Assam with a view to realising the legitimate demands of the people and to defeat the twin danger posed by the parochial forces and the Congress (I) for which we proposed concrete programmes at different times within the Ten-party Combination.

The meeting however, deeply regretted the fact that inspite of our repeated efforts no such movement could be launched yet, although its necessity was strongly felt and the democratic minded masses were also in favour of it.

It is the strong feeling of our State Committee that the failure to launch such a democratic movement provided a ground to the parochial forces to once again misdirect the people and to the Congress an opportunity to attempt to foist another minority Government. Under the circumstances the question of formation

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Make January 19, '82 All-India Industrial Strike A Grand Success

Immediately after the November 23 rally, important organisers and leaders of different unions, state and Central Committee leaders of UTUC (Lenin Sarani) met in New Delhi and decided to strive utmost to make the programme of January 19, 1982 a grand success. For this, instruction has been sent to all state units to prepare from right now.



All India Education and Language Conference, held in Calcutta, Mahajati Sadan on November 27, '81. Sitted on the dais (from left)—Santosh Ghose, B.V.Rao, Prof. A.M. Dharmalingam, Manik Mukhopadhyaya, Prof. Narendra Sharma, Premendra Mitra (President), Dr. Sukumar Sen, Dr. Samuel Mathai, Prof. Subia Basu Roy, Prof. K.V. Ramana Reddy and Sailesh Day.

Against ESMA, Price rise

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day—'Poonjivad Ho Barbad' (Down with capitalism) '23 November Ka paigham Mazdoor Ekai Our Sangram' (Message of 23 November—unity of working class and struggle). Kala Kanun Dafan Karengi (Bury the Black Acts). Yes, these are voices of class-conscious workers.

Along with other fraternal organisations, UTUC (Lenin Sarani) made utmost effort to make notable contribution to make the programme a success. At the camp of Ramtila ground, workers under the banner of UTUC (Lenin Sarani) from the states of West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, U.P., Harayana, Delhi, M.P., Assam, Rajasthan, Punjab were congregating since November 2. Later, a colourful well disciplined procession of thousands of people assembled first at the foot of the Red Fort wherefrom the united procession started its march to Parliament.

The mammoth procession wending in its course reached the Boat Club Maidan upto which the rulers allowed it to go. The Club Maidan was easily converted into a vast sea of humanity. A meeting was held there. In the presidium, Comrade Gyan Singh, represented the UTUC (Lenin Sarani).

Comrade Prithvi Chanda General Secretary, UTUC (Lenin Sarani) was the first speaker. At the outset, Comrade Chanda congratulated the working people for giving this fitting reply to the Government. Then he urged them to realise that this magnificent show of unity of opposition to the ESMA that seeks to rob them of their fundamental and inalienable rights could be possible because the divisive moves to lead them to the opposite direction of surrender and compromise failed to gain the upperhand. So, this unity—the unity in common struggle against the common enemy—crisis ridden capitalism and its

servitors is to be guarded as apple of the eye.

Comrade Chanda said: this magnificent response to the call of the NCC shows that people want to fight their exploiters, a real fight, an effective fight; what is wanted is a united leadership, a leadership to the correct direction. For a fight really to develop into invincible force, the workers too, need to realise that fascist measures like ESMA are being resorted to more and more by the ruling capitalist class and its subservient government to pass the entire burden of crisis on to the shoulder of common people at this intense third phase of general crisis which has become overall and all out crisis. The parties coming in defence of this moribund capitalist social order are complying with the class needs of the ruling capitalist class.

Now what the people will do? Will they allow the country to drift to the fascist path to reduce themselves to the position of worst kind of slaves? No. The answer to this evil design lies in building up united, powerful movement. But what is to be remembered is that this unity should not mean unity or agreement merely between the leaders at the top. For, in that case the movement will have to wait till that unity comes but the very situation demands the urgency of it. Again, the revisionist trend that wants to confine the struggle within the confine of election politics as also a peculiarly sectarian outlook are putting obstacle to this unity to develop. Naturally, the working people will have to take the initiative in their own hand to forge unity at the bottom, at the plant level, in local and regional struggle committees, if their struggle is to be built up and the capitalist design defeated.

Acclaimed by thunderous cheers, Comrade Chanda declared the

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of a non-Congress(I) ministry by the Ten-party Combination has come up.

While examining different aspects of the formation and conduction of such a Government by the Ten-party Combination, the State Committee of our party strongly opined that in order to fulfil the democratic aspirations of the people, adoption of the following basic outlook, approach and policies are indispensable:

(1) In clear contrast to the oppressive attitude of the earlier anti-people regimes it must consistently uphold pro-people anti-capitalist attitude.

(2) In spite of the limitations imposed by the capitalist system and the Constitution it shall leave no stone unturned to offer maximum relief to the people.

(3) It must scrupulously follow the policy that in the name of maintaining law and order it shall not interfere in the legitimate democratic movement.

(4) Instead of suppressing and discouraging genuine democratic movements, it shall constantly encourage their growth and development.

(5) It shall resolutely oppose all sorts of parochial communal and divisive movements.

(6) It shall strictly

unanimous decision of the National Campaign Committee to observe All India Industrial Strike on January 19, 1982. He informed that efforts would be made to make this strike both in public and private sectors. Appealing to the working people to guard, consolidate and further extend it in the coming programme, Comrade Chanda completed his speech.

Other speakers who addressed the rally were Jatin Chakraborty (UTUC Bowbazar), Chitta Basu (TUCC), V. Tyagi (HMS), J.S. Dara (INTUC, Dara), Samar Mukherjee (CITU), D.B. Thengri (BMS), Indrajit Gupta (AITUC).

Assam State Committee SUCI

maintain administrative neutrality.

(7) It shall restrain bureaucracy and democratise the administrative apparatus.

(8) It shall take stringent measures against all sorts of administrative corruption, inefficiency and wastage.

(9) While trying to meet the legitimate aspirations of the Assamese speaking people it shall also protect the life, legitimate rights and interests of religious and linguistic minorities.

(10) In dealing with the problem of foreign nationals, it shall not make any unjust or unprincipled compromise and shall make sincere efforts to impress upon the people the justness and reasonableness lying behind the acceptance of 1971 as the base year. It shall also seek constitutional safeguards for making the present status of Assamese language the official language of the state permanently, retaining

at the same time the existing constitutional rights of the linguistic minorities and demand alongwith a concrete scheme for setting-up major industries in the state as part of the solution.

Only on the basis of the above mentioned outlook, approach and policies, our state committee has decided to extend support to the move for the formation of a non-Congress (I) ministry by the Ten-party Combination.

The State Committee, however, strongly feels that there is an urgent necessity for transforming the Ten-party Combination into a united front as an instrument of people's struggle on the basis of a common minimum programme, certain principles and a code of conduct. Once again the State Committee would like to stress that it is the democratic movement which alone can keep the government on the right track and make it really pro-people.

MAKE ALL-INDIA CONFERENCE OF AIDS a grand success

An all India Student's Conference being organised at the initiative of AIDS O at Trivandrum, Kerala to be held on January 8, 9 and 10, 1982, not only to focus the attention of the student community but of all those who feel concern at some of the burning educational and social problems of the day but to chalk out as well a course of action for a country-wide student movement.

Today our country is passing through a critical time. People are languishing in the midst of so many problems. The anti-people language and education policy of the ruling class is a matter of grave concern. AIDS O believes that curtailment of autonomy of educational institutions,

the attempts to keep the the majority of the population in the darkness of illiteracy and to further restrict the scope of higher education—be it through seat restriction scheme, rising cost, prolonged years of study, newer restrictive rules and regulations or depriving the common people from access to English—along with the policy of undermining the importance of language studies, etc should be viewed seriously and firmly resisted by the student community while upholding the demands for secular, democratic, scientific and universal education.

The country faces, today, a grave crisis. Education is being crippled and mutilated, ethics and

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ALL INDIA CONFERENCE

Against the Anti-People Language and Education Policies of the Governments

Language is one of the basic and indispensable pillars of human existence and civilisation. It is impossible to minimise the importance of language in the life of the people. Without language no communication is possible no human relationship can flourish. It is language which provides us with the key to the treasurehouse of knowledge and science with the help of which society can understand and solve the manifold problems confronted with. Therefore any attack on language is an attack on people in their most sensitive sphere, it is an attack on the very advancement of civilisation. Yet such is exactly the long-term import of the language and education policy of the Government at the Centre and different States by which the study of language and literature and more particularly of English is being devalued at a time when the standard of education, and culture in the country has suffered steady decline of devaluing language and literature study and denying the importance of English when already there has been a steady decline in the standard of education and culture in our country. Some of the states have gone even so far as to deny access to English for the common people by abolishing it from the primary curriculum in their eagerness to debar the common people from higher education. At the same time the Centre and states are coming down with a heavy hand on the autonomy of education and free academic pursuit to prevent the growth of critical mind searching spirit and bring about instead complete regimentation in thinking. These naked fascist attacks are striking at the very root of

civilisation and the well-being of the people. If not resisted the avenues to social progress will be closed, disunity of the people and national disintegration will be aggravated and a new generation will grow devoid of all values. Faced with this growing fascist menace will the people rise to the occasion and unite their voice into one mighty chorus of protest, or fall helpless victims? People in different states are gradually awakening to the serious situation and are preparing for movement. Hence the campaigns organised in different parts of the country to mobilise public opinion against these anti-people policies in Seminars, Conventions and Symposiums under the auspices of various Committees headed by distinguished personalities. In order to give these an all-India shape and evolve a united programme of protest an All India Language and Education Conference was held under the auspices of the Committee to Resist Curtailement of Education and Encroachment on Autonomy at Mahajati Sadan Calcutta, on 27th November. The Conference, held in two sessions was attended by distinguished litterateurs, academicians and other personalities from all over the country. The hall was packed with delegates in both the morning and evening session and microphones had to be placed outside to provide the people unable to find accommodation in the hall with an opportunity to listen to the speakers. In the Morning Session, Dr. Pratul Gupta, ex Vice-Chancellor Viswa Bharati University and President of Asiatic Society of Bengal, presided. The speakers included Sri Pramatha Nath Bisi,

eminent writer, Dr. Arabinda Nath Basu, ex-Vice Chancellor, Jadavpur University, Prof. Subir Basu Roy, Joint Secretary of the Committee, Sri V. B. Rao from Karnataka and member of the All India Committee, Sri Guru Mohanty, noted writer and advocate from Orissa. In the evening session Premendra Mitra, eminent writer, presided, while the speakers included Dr. Sukumar Sen, luminary personality in the educational field, Sri Santosh Kumar Ghosh, well-known writer and journalist, Dr. Samuel Mathai, ex Vice-Chancellor of Kerala University, Prof. R. Reddy from Andhra Pradesh, Prof. Dharmalingam from Karnataka, Com. Manik Mukhopadhyay Vice President of the Committee. Prof. Narendra Sharma from Delhi and Sri Samarendra Narayan Deb, film director from Assam. After the speakers had finished many delegates came forward and pledged their all out support to the resolution which was placed at the very beginning and adopted unanimously at the end. In spite of the huge attendance there was pindrop silence when the different speakers addressed.

Dr. Arabinda Nath Bose said: Today we have met under the shadow of a great impending danger which not only threatens the integrity and solidarity of the country but also the fibre of its education and culture. Attack on English, onslaught on autonomy and restructuring of education are different facets of the same policy. Progress of civilisation has been possible because of free pursuit of knowledge. The British rulers attacked autonomy of our universities but the academics did not take it laying down. They protested against the onslaught. The Govern-

ments want to make Universities mere appendages of the education department. It is a crucial time. We must rise in protest.

In his speech Sri Pramatha Nath Bisi, recalled that our great man like Vidyasagar, Bankimchandra and others knew English and advocated learning English. Rabindranath, too, stressed the need to learn English even for the sake of Bengali, and he did not just say this but actually himself set out teaching English at Santiniketan, and for that purpose he himself wrote several primers. And, if we are to learn English, he said, it should be from early childhood.

Sri V. B. Rao, reminded of a verdict of Bombay High Court that any language spoken and used in India is an Indian language. English is an Indian language, he stressed, hence we should give up our phobia against English and adopt the two language formula, that is of mother tongue and English and the official use of both in day to day work.

Prof. Subir Basu Roy emphasised that our demand for retention of English in different spheres is not directed against any language. He further drew attention to the fact that education is a superstructure on the economic base of a country the ruling class is trying to pattern the people's mind in its favour through control over education.

Dr. Pratul Gupta declared: I never spoke in public, earlier except before class and in committee room. But today if I do not come out in open protest against these dangerous policies I shall be failing in my duty. So even we old people have to come out in protest. For, this language policy will close the door of the coming generation.

Sri Guru Mohanty stressed that English should be retained at the primary education and taught with great care.

It is our common experience that all eminent personalities of our country got their education in their ordinary village schools. But they could excel in their fields because scope was not limited as we are making it today, he said.

Dr. Sukumar Sen, pledging his full support to the movement against the language and education policy dwelt on the overall importance of English in the life of people and its function as link language. English, he said, is of great value, it is one of those things that are helping to form and cement the unity of the Indian nation.

Regretting that the Government was giving a political twist to the controversy raised over the issues of language and education policies, Sri Santosh Kumar Ghosh said: our entire culture is at stake. Language is the vehicle of knowledge. Yet our people have been told that they need not know language. So are we to go back to the days of the 'shruti' he wondered!

Countering the pleas raised in justification of abolishing English Dr. Samuel Mathai called for a calm reappraisal of the problems, if we approach them properly they are not insurmountable, we can solve them, he said. What is needed is the will to do so. But if you go about saying English language is a burden, this will create a psychological barrier in the mind of the learner. Besides Dr. Mathai emphasized education cannot flourish if the educator or the learner are not free to teach or learn according to their judgement and capacity, and if academic decisions are introduced without consulting them. For free education autonomy is a must. The aim of education is not just to pass exams but to develop the mind and thinking power of the people without a sound general education freedom and democratic system will not work.

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Language Conference

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Prof. A. N. Dharmalingam said: Some people say that English language was imposed on Indians to make clerks or cattle of us. But English was introduced because our own people led by Rammohan and Vidyasagar wanted English. We fought for freedom and became a nation for the first time with the help of English language.

Prof. R. Reddy condemning the discrimination of Centre and States against the common people on the question of providing equal scope for education and against the regional languages, demanded equal scope for education and equal patronage to all regional languages, while retaining English as link language.

Sri Premendra Mitra said: This movement of ours has made an impact in different parts of the country. The Government's measures are harmful for education, harmful for our people. They say, for example, that peasants and poor people do not need English. I wonder do they mean to say that our poor masses should remain ignorant, remain in the mire?

Comrade Manik Mukhopadhyaya pointed out that Left-Front's, education and language policy is but an extension of the Congress Government's policies. West Bengal and several other States too, have adopted a policy of eliminating English gradually from education. This is but a reflection of the Centre's official language policy in the sphere of education. Both the Centre and different States are undervaluing the importance of language study. By this they want to curb the thinking power of the people and by undervaluing the literature study, too, they want to dehumanise us, he warned.

On the basis of the common agreed demands upheld in the resolution we shall build up a country wide movement against these pernicious policies of both the Centre and the States. We shall launch country wide signature campaign and place these in the form of a Great Petition before Parliament. If they do not respond favourably then the movement will continue till the demands are met.

Prof. Narendra Sharma assured: The movement being built up in defense of democratic rights in the field of education and in defense of language studies is spreading all over India. We from Delhi shall participate in whatever programme the

Committee decides on and wholeheartedly help to make it successful.

Sri Samarendra Narayan Deb declared the unstinted support on behalf of many intellectuals for this historic movement.

An All India Committee under the name of Save Language, Education and Autonomy Committee of India was formed at the end with a view to conducting the country-wide movement against these anti-people policies in different States with the firm resolve to carry on the struggle and mobilise public opinion against these perilous policies.

Two books one in English and the other in Bengali—containing articles by distinguished educationists have been brought out on this occasion.

All-India AIDS Conference

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morality perverted and democratic rights and values are under constant attacks to make them non-existent. All these are going on before our very eyes to indicate unmistakably that the shadow of fascism on the country is growing darker. Can the students, the youth allow this dark design to succeed? Who else than the youth of the country, the student community can take up the challenging task of saving the country from such a

disgrace?

The ensuing All India Conference of AIDS in Trivandrum assumes importance in the context of this concrete situation.

We appeal to the students and the people all over the country, who feel concerned at the dangerous drift going on in the country particularly in educational cultural and social life to come forward with their active help, moral and material, to make this timely initiative a grand success.

Student-Youth Convention and Gopabandhu Day

Under the auspices of the DSO and the DYU "Student-Youth Convention & Gopabandhu Day" was observed at Rourkela on 15th November last. The Convention was organised to develop mighty movement against the anti-people education and language policy of the Central and the state governments, against obscurity, unemployment problem, price rise, bus and train fare rise and against

the black acts like ESMA, NSA etc. The concluding programme of the 104th birth anniversary of Pandit Gopabandhu Das was observed as Gopabandhu Day on the same day.

Comrade Dhurjati Das, the President of the Orissa state committee of DSO presided over the delegate session. Comrade Tapas Datta, the Secretary, Orissa state Committee of the SUCI inaugurated the delegate

AIDS Conference in States

To make the all India Conference of AIDS scheduled to be held on January 8-10, '82 in Trivandrum a grand success, state level conferences are being held. News about three such state conferences in Rajasthan, Haryana and UP have reached us. The report says about great enthusiasm and response from the students community. From bare experiences they see that AIDS is the only student's organisation that represents the current of struggle—struggle against the heinous conspiracy of the ruling capitalist class to dehumanise students and youths, to perpetuate the most reactionary moribund capitalist system. Students are responding to the call of struggle of AIDS and are coming forward under its banner greater and greater in number. Below we give brief report about the three state conferences so far reached us.

RAJASTHAN

The first State Conference of AIDS, Rajasthan was held at the Swami Kumarandan Hill, Jaipur on 10th and 11th November last with great enthusiasm. Delegates from five districts participated in the conference. A fifteen member State organising committee with Comrade

session and discussed the necessity of building up a mighty movement of the students and the youth on the edifice of a higher proletarian culture and ethics.

The open session in the evening at Telephone Bhavan Maidan was presided over by Comrade Chitra Ranjan Behra, the Secretary of the Orissa State Committee of the AIDS and the main speaker was Comrade Prativa Mukherjee, a renowned mass leader.

Mahesh Chomal as Secretary and Comrade Mukesh Chaturvedi was formed. In the delegate session Comrade Pravash Ghosh President of All India Democratic Students Organisation was present as the Main Speaker. Comrade Chhaya Mukherjee, General Secretary of AIDS also spoke.

HARYANA

The second AIDS State Conference in Haryana was held at Hissar on 14th-15th November last. The Open Session was held on 14th at old Government College, Hissar and the Delegate Session at Sushilla Bhawan held on 15th November under the presidentship of Comrade Rajesh Ahlawal.

A 22 member State Council was unanimously formed in the Conference with Comrade Rajesh Ahlawal as President, Comrade Piaralal as Secretary, Comrade Ram Mehar and Comrade Chhajju as the Joint Secretaries.

U P

On 20th and 21st Nov, '81 the Second AIDS State Conference of U. P. was held at Allahabad with enthusiasm. The open session was held on 20th Nov. at the Tandon Park.

Delegate Session was held on 21st Nov. A new state council was formed. Comrade Pravakar Dube was elected the President Comrade Jagannath Verma the Secretary, Comrade Sesh Moni Yadava the Vice President and Comrade Ramjash Yadava the Treasurer.

Comrade Provas Ghosh, President and Comrade Chhaya Mukherjee, General Secretary, All India Committee AIDS were present as main speakers in Open and Delegate Sessions of the different state conferences.

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